Fully blown Aids cases by Madras Medical College, Madras

237. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICMR, AIDS surveillance Centre, Madras Medical College, Madras has recovered a full blown AIDS case once in eight days; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of these people belong to the lower middle classes and from the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what preventive measures Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No Sir. The number of AIDS cases detected in Madras Medical College, Madras from 1980 to January, 1993 is 47.

(c) It has been reported that most of the patients detected were from urban and semi-urban areas and belonging to lower middle classes.

(d) The Government have chalked up a multi-sectoral National Programme to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in the country with the assistance of World Bank and WHO. The programme estimated to cost about Rs. 222.6 crores during the Eighth Five-Year Plan Period, has the following components:

—Strengthening the Management capacity for HIV control of the central as well as State levels;

—Promoting Public awareness and community support;

—Improving Blood Safety and the rational use of blood;

—Controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases; and

—Building surveillance and clinical management capacity;

Action on all these components has commenced during the current financial year.

National Drug Authority

238. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Policy of 1986 provides for a National Drug Authority and if so, whether it has since been formed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has not been considered feasible to set up such an Authority. It has, however, been decided to strengthen and upgrade the Drugs Standard Control Organisations, both at the Central and State levels?

Appointment of a qualified Director to the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta

239. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the appointment of the Director of the National Institute of Homoeopathy in Calcutta has been withheld to the detriment of teaching and Research; and

(b) what steps have been taken to appoint a properly qualified Director on a substantive basis so that the Institute may serve the purpose for which it was set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b)